



# Promise Academy II Charter School

A partner of



**Harlem Children's  
ZONE**

## **BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

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**Achil Petit**  
**Superintendent**

**Sheryl Ragland**  
**Principal**  
**Lower Elementary School**  
2005 Madison Avenue  
New York, NY 10035  
Tel 646.556.6285

**Shondell James**  
**Principal**  
**Upper Elementary School**  
2005 Madison Avenue  
New York, NY 10035  
Tel 646.556.6285

**Judy Palacios**  
**Principal**  
**Middle School**  
35 East 125<sup>th</sup> Street  
New York, NY 10035  
Tel 646.437.1481

**Ashley Blount**  
**Principal**  
**High School**  
35 East 125<sup>th</sup> Street  
New York, NY 10035  
Tel 646.437.1484

## AGENDA

Promise Academy II Board of Trustees Meeting  
Wednesday, September 21<sup>st</sup>, 2016

at

The Harlem Children's Zone  
245 West 129<sup>th</sup> Street  
New York, NY 10027

- I. Acceptance of the Minutes
- II. Superintendent's Updates (*Achil Petit*)
- III. Introduction of New Principal (*Marquitta Speller*)
- IV. State Test Results (*Bessie Wilkerson/Achil Petit*)
- V. Promise Academy II Updates
  - i. Lower Elementary School (*Sheryl Ragland*)
  - ii. Upper Elementary School (*Shondell James*)
  - iii. Middle School (*Judy Palacios*)
  - iv. High School (*Ashley Blount*)
- VI. Financial Report (*Jim Hutter*)

**The Harlem Children's Zone Promise Academy II Charter School**

**Board Meeting**

**Wednesday, July 19<sup>th</sup>, 2016**

**245 West 129th Street**

*Attendees: Geoffrey Canada, Kenneth Langone, Anne Williams-Isom, Fatime Cadoo, Stan Druckenmiller, Arlene Gibson, Willie Mae Lewis, Candice Ashby, Florence Bolton, Ari Browne, Alpha Conteh, Paul Cooley, Joseph Cordero, Annice Fischer, Marlene Fox, Michelle Germaine, Debbie Gonzalez, Katherine Hurtado, Jim Hutter, Mujronji Imran, Shondell James, Raychael Jensen, Betina Jean-Louis, Marilyn Joseph, Debbie Kim, Ernst LeJeune, Marilyn Joseph, Jazmine Lewis, Daniela Luis, Mindy Miller, Kwame Owusu-Kesse, Achil Petit, Conrad Pinnock, Sheryl Ragland, Susan Rydz, Lauren Scopaz, Marquitta Speller and KiKi Walton.*

**Acceptance of Minutes (Geoffrey Canada)**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 am and a motion was called to approve the meeting minutes from May 18, 2016. The motion was unanimously approved.

**CEO Report (Anne Williams-Isom)**

Ms. Anne Williams-Isom updated the Board on how Promise Academy has been addressing students and community regarding the traumatic events that have been happening across the nation. The school has been having small-group sessions to remind students that we are here for them. Pamphlets and other resources have been distributed to staff that offer guidelines as teachers broach these subjects with Promise students.

HCZ is holding its 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Peace March on August 10, 2016. The planning stage is still in progress and invitations to local police officers asking them to speak at the event, is underway.

The three days of HCZ Summer Games begins on July 20, 2016.

Ms. Williams-Isom thanked Kenneth Langone for contributing copies of the book, "O Great One!: A Little Story About the Awesome Power of Recognition," by David Novak, to all Promise teachers and some staff members.

Ms. Williams-Isom also thanked Stan Druckenmiller for inviting teachers and staff out to his home for the teacher appreciation event. It was reported that all staff felt welcomed and enjoyed the event.

Trustee Arlene Gibson submitted her resignation to the Promise Academy I and II Board of Trustees. Ms. Gibson, who is moving out of New York State, expressed thanks for the years of collaboration with Mr. Canada, HCZ and Promise Academy. Mr. Canada thanked Ms. Gibson for her incredible contribution over the years.

### **Superintendent's Updates (Achil Petit)**

Superintendent Dr. Achil Petit reported that enrollment for the year ended at 1,090 for PAI and 872 for PAII.

The month of June had many celebratory events including graduations, moving up ceremonies, proms and other end-of-the-year celebrations.

Dr. Petit asked the Board to vote on two resolutions: (1) approving the 2016-2017 Family Handbook, and (2) changes to Promise Academy I and II's summer sessions.

### **Resolutions (Candice Ashby)**

A motion was called to approve a resolution to revise the current charter for Promise Academy II Charter School. The purpose of the material revision is to strengthen academic support during the summer to remedial students. The motion was unanimously approved by the Board.

A motion was approved to update the Family Handbook for the 2016-2017 academic year. The motion was approved. The updated Family Handbook can be found on the Promise Academy website. <http://www.hczpromise.org/for-parents>

### **HCZ Promise Academy II Lower Elementary School (Sheryl Ragland)**

Attendance for the month of June was at 91% due to graduations and moving up ceremonies of siblings of Promise students.

Lower elementary held its moving up ceremonies with the superintendent honoring parents whose children had perfect attendance. Kindergarten students who are reading at second- and third-grade levels were also honored and plans are underway to give accelerated instruction in literacy for those students in the new school year.

The school held its Ade Circle, a women's group for family members of lower elementary students. During the summer session, the group worked on vision boards to plan for future goals.

The school held transition meetings for Gem students coming into kindergarten and for second-graders going into upper elementary school's third-grade. Parents were able to make important connections and received vital information in preparation for these transitions.

School leaders thanked the Development team for orchestrating a trip for second-graders to the FLAG Art Foundation in Chelsea. The children observed the "Summer School" exhibit and were there when [NY1 News covered the show](#).

This summer, the school has been engaging in more hands-on and project-based learning. Teachers performed more lessons outside and students had the opportunity to create their own games.

### **HCZ Promise Academy II Upper Elementary School (Shondell James)**

The attendance for the month of June was at 93%. The school is reaching out to parents to make sure that each of them understands the importance of good attendance.

Upper elementary held its annual art show, which was curated by art teacher Ms. Terrizzi. Every student had a piece in the show and their work was displayed for one week.

The school held its spring instrumental concert, and also held a talent show where students performed dance routines and sung.

This year, the school took some time in the summer for veteran teachers to lead workshops and turnkey information to other teachers.

At the end of June, upper elementary held an awards and moving up ceremony for their fifth-graders. The keynote speaker was Marlene Fox, who gave a message on being kind to one another.

### **HCZ Promise Academy II Middle School (Paul Cooley)**

The school's attendance for the month of June was at 92%. The school is consistently working to increase their attendance percentage.

Of the eighth-graders who took the Algebra and Living Environment Regents exams, 100% passed, and 22 of the 23 students who passed the Algebra exam are college ready.

The sixth- and seventh-graders demonstrated projects at a science fair. They used the scientific method to prove theories. Students did experiments and created inventions.

The school held its 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Career Day, with 35 guest speakers, including nurses, lawyers, financial analysts, screenwriters and Google staff.

Sixth- and seventh-graders visited the North Salem site. The students hiked trails, looked at plants and animals and also went to the Wolf Conservation Center.

Eighth-graders went to a dude ranch and engaged in team-building games.

The eighth-grade graduation was a huge success. Some scholars performed and there was a reception after the event.

In the middle school's advisor program, the sixth-grade has been doing some projects to help increase self-esteem.

### **HCZ Promise Academy II High School (Marquitta Speller)**

Attendance for the month of June was 94% due to pre-college exposures.

The school is preparing for its first graduating class in 2017 and all of the seniors are on track to graduate.

High school students have taken the Advanced Placement History Regents exam.

There are 30 seniors at PAII, most of whom are either enrolled in a college-exposure program or are taking part of an internship.

A Promise Academy High School boat ride was held to celebrate junior students transitioning into their senior year.

Fourteen students are away for a week at the Mountain School, a diverse and interdependent community of scholars who come from all over the country to live and work on the school's

farm in rural Vermont. The aim of the school is to build trust and an appreciation of difference, while creating an academic and work-based community in which every voice matters.

**Financial Report (Jim Hutter)**

Jim Hutter covered Promise Academy II's financial report through end of FY16. PAII ended the year with 872 students enrolled. Total expenditures in the aggregate were about \$200,000 over budget. Overall, the HCZ contribution for PAII is \$0.2M over budget.

# ASHLEY BLOUNT



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## SUMMARY OF QUALIFICATIONS

- *Curriculum Development*
- *Instructional Coaching*
- *Departmental Supervision*
- *School-Wide Data Specialist*
- *Professional Development*
- *Recruitment and Hiring*
- *Student Activities*
- *Data-Driven Instruction*

## EDUCATION

Montclair State University, Upper Montclair, NJ  
Master of Arts in Educational Leadership, Cum Laude

Teachers College, Columbia University, New York, NY  
Master of Arts in The Teaching of Social Studies (7-12), Magna Cum Laude

Montclair State University, Upper Montclair, NJ  
Bachelor of Arts in Sociology, Magna Cum Laude

## CERTIFICATION

New York State Initial Certification in Secondary Social Studies Education, June 2011  
New York State School Building Leader Certificate, Expected August 2016

## LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE

### Principal

July 2016 – Present  
New York, NY

Harlem Children's Zone: Promise Academy II Charter High School

- Responsible for all day to day activities within the school
- Leads school and decision making process to ensure the development of a comprehensive school improvement plan
- Organized Academic Departments into course teams that met regularly to develop data-driven curriculum maps, lesson plans, and interventions
- Coached teachers in the development and implementation of lesson plans and assessments
- Conducted school-wide professional development on classroom management plans that fostered a climate conducive to academic achievement
- Provided and modeled lessons for teachers in academic areas to identify and promote effective instructional practices
- Worked with the school's leadership team to construct and execute strategic growth plans

### Assistant Principal

August 2014 – June 2016  
New York, NY

Harlem Children's Zone: Promise Academy II Charter High School

- Supervised the development of curricula aligned to Common Core Standards utilizing principles from Understanding by Design and Project - Based Learning
- Organized the Humanities and Science Departments into course teams that met regularly to develop data-driven curriculum maps, lesson plans, and interventions
- Coached teachers in the development and implementation of lesson plans and assessments
- Conducted school-wide professional development on classroom management plans that fostered a climate conducive to academic achievement
- Provided and modeled lessons for teachers in academic areas to identify and promote effective instructional practices
- Worked with the school's leadership team to construct and execute strategic growth plans

## **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

### **Social Studies Teacher**

April 2011 – August 2016

Harlem Children's Zone: Promise Academy I & II Charter High School

New York, NY

- Classes Taught: AP United States History, United States History (Regents-based), Economics, Participation in Government, Global History
- Designed units, tests, and projects to motivate and engage students with the academic content
- Collaborated with teacher team to standardize benchmark assessments
- Participated in weekly department meetings and professional development activities
- Adapted materials and instructional methods to the interests, needs, and abilities of students
- Achieved 98-100% passing rate consistently on the Social Studies Regents Exams since 2011

### **Humanities Instructor**

September 2010 – April 2011

Harlem Children's Zone: Truce Media and Arts Center

New York, NY

- Created and implemented Social Studies and English curriculum for high school students
- Provided small group instruction to struggling students in order to improve Regents exam scores and overall academic performance
- Maintained detailed records on student progress in order to create individualized lesson plans

## **ADDITIONAL PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

### **Student Government Advisor**

September 2013 – June 2014

Harlem Children's Zone: Promise Academy I Charter High School

New York, NY

- Organized and conducted student elections
- Supervised student council activities
- Encourage and planned activities to increase school spirit and community
- Organized community service projects, school events, and other activities

### **Resident Assistant**

August 2007 – May 2010

Montclair State University

Upper Montclair, NJ

- Provided paraprofessional advisement to undergraduate students in an all-female residence hall
- Developed and conducted programs and events on diversity, safety, education, and leadership
- Responsible for academic guidance of 35 undergraduate students
- Managed administrative tasks, including room condition reports, maintenance requests, and incident reports

## **ACADEMIC HONORS AND AWARDS**

- Alpha Kappa Delta International Sociology Honor Society
- Selected to meet President Obama at the White House on behalf of the Harlem Children's Zone

## **SKILLS**

Proficient in Microsoft Office, Windows, MAC OSX, and SmartBoard Technology

# HCZ Promise Academy II July 2016 Attendance Report

HCZ PAII Lower Elementary School				HCZ PAII Upper Elementary School			
Date	Number of Students Absent	Enrollment	% of Students Present	Number of Students Absent	Enrollment	% of Students Present	
7/5	64	256	75%	44	242	82%	
7/6	72	254	72%	66	240	73%	
7/8	43	254	83%	41	240	83%	
7/11	42	255	84%	22	239	91%	
7/12	34	254	87%	23	239	90%	
7/13	29	254	89%	27	239	89%	
7/14	30	253	88%	20	239	92%	
7/15	29	253	89%	26	239	89%	
7/18	39	254	85%	30	239	87%	
7/19	41	256	84%	18	239	92%	
7/20	43	258	83%	39	239	84%	
7/21	36	257	86%	24	239	90%	
7/22	69	257	73%	49	239	79%	
7/25	59	262	77%	39	239	84%	
7/26	38	261	85%	34	239	86%	
7/27	43	263	84%	42	239	82%	
7/28	51	263	81%	46	239	81%	
7/29	84	268	69%	53	239	78%	
<b>Average</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>257</b>	<b>82%</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>239</b>	<b>85%</b>	



# HCZ Promise Academy II July 2016 Attendance Report

		HCZ PAII Middle School			HCZ PAII High School		
Date	Number of Students Absent	Enrollment	% of Students Present	Number of Students Absent	Enrollment	% of Students Present	
7/5	51	236	78%	39	196	80%	
7/6	72	236	69%	42	191	78%	
7/8	36	235	85%	42	191	78%	
7/11	35	237	85%	19	191	90%	
7/12	31	237	87%	21	193	89%	
7/13	24	237	90%	26	193	87%	
7/14	24	236	90%	21	193	89%	
7/15	38	236	84%	30	193	84%	
7/18	35	237	85%	26	195	87%	
7/19	31	237	87%	20	197	90%	
7/20	28	237	88%	18	197	91%	
7/21	30	237	87%	26	197	87%	
7/22	65	237	73%	93	197	53%	
7/25	40	237	83%	3	197	98%	
7/26	43	236	82%	31	197	84%	
7/27	35	236	85%	39	197	80%	
7/28	40	236	83%	29	197	85%	
7/29	57	236	76%	48	197	76%	
<b>Average</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>236</b>	<b>83%</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>195</b>	<b>84%</b>	



## Promise Academy II

### FY 2017 August YTD Budget vs. Actual

\$ millions

	Budget	Actual <sup>(1)</sup>	Fav/(Unfav)	Full Year Budget
Enrollment	978	986		978
Grades	K - 12	K - 12	8	K - 12
DOE and other gov't funding	\$ 2.8	\$ 2.8	-	\$ 16.5
Expenses:				
Salaries	1.8	1.7	0.1	11.7
Benefits	0.6	0.6	-	3.6
OTPS	0.5	0.5	-	3.0
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>2.9</b>	<b>2.8</b>	<b>0.1</b>	<b>18.3</b>
<b>HCZ Contribution</b>	<b>\$ 0.1</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>\$ 0.1</b>	<b>\$ 1.8</b>
<b>per student (whole \$)</b>	<b>\$ 102</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>\$ 102</b>	<b>\$ 1,840</b>

(1) Excludes bonus, growth fund, occupancy and "in-kind" contributions.

Budget amounts have been adjusted to better reflect anticipated 2017 activity.